UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/25926
10 June 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 3 JUNE 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF EGYPT TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Further to my letter dated 18 January 1993 (S/25127), I have the honour to transmit herewith for your attention, a letter from His Excellency Amre Moussa, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt, in reply to the letter of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sudan addressed to the President of the Security Council dated 18 May 1993 (S/25925, annex).

I would be grateful if you could have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nabil ELARABY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

[Original: Arabic]

Letter dated 30 May 1993 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Egypt addressed to the President of the Security Council

With reference to the letter dated 18 May 1993 addressed to you by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Sudan concerning the question of Halayib, and pursuant to my letters to you of 3 and 14 January 1993 on this question, I have the honour to inform you that the aforementioned letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Sudan is one in a series of letters through which the Sudanese Government is seeking to infringe Egypt's acknowledged sovereignty over the Halayib region. As I have stated previously, this sovereignty has a legal, historical and factual basis. As you know, the 1899 Agreement demarcated the Sudan's northern international boundary with Egypt and unambiguously stipulated that Sudanese territory comprised the land south of the 22nd parallel. Thus, the reasoning followed in the series of letters from the Sudan to the President of the Security Council claiming that the Halayib triangle area is in Sudanese territory and not Egyptian territory is specious and is no substitute for history or law in their true context, which precision and accuracy demand. These letters contain allegations which clearly demonstrate that the Sudanese Government intends to transform the limited administrative functions entrusted to it pursuant to Egyptian decrees into permanent occupation and annexation of territory that belongs to Egypt legally and historically.

The Egyptian administrative decrees which place areas situated north of the 22nd parallel and within Egypt's international borders under Sudanese administration - measures that were taken in the interest of tribes living on both sides of the international border - can in no way be construed as constituting a modification of the Agreement of 19 January 1899, the sole document demarcating the international boundary between Egypt and the Sudan, for they are purely administrative decrees promulgated for humanitarian purposes. Clearly, the limited administrative functions which Egypt accorded the Sudan in areas north of the 22nd parallel cannot be extended so far as to authorize acts of sovereignty, and they confer no rights whatsoever over the area.

As for the allegations made in the latest letter from the Sudan, it should be noted that, since 1899, Egypt has never relinquished its sovereignty over the Halayib region. In fact, despite the aforementioned administrative functions which Egypt entrusted to the Sudan in the region, Egypt continues - and shall continue - to exercise its sovereignty over the region without interruption. Moreover, the Egyptian Government has consistently protested whenever the Sudanese authorities have attempted to act in the region in a manner that infringes Egyptian sovereignty there.

The presence of border guards along the Egyptian frontier is entirely natural, deriving from Egypt's exercise of its sovereignty over its territory. This presence has been necessary to protect Egypt's security in the face of increasingly active terrorist elements infiltrating Egypt with growing regularity, posing a possible threat to peace and security in the region. There has never been an Egyptian presence in Sudanese territory south of the

22nd parallel, contrary to what is claimed in the letter from the Sudanese Minister for Foreign Affairs.

This letter contains numerous accusations and refers to what it calls escalation in the form of threatening letters which the Sudanese military authorities have received from the Egyptian authorities. These allegations are devoid of any truth, the fact of the matter being that Egypt ardently seeks to continue the dialogue between the Egyptian and Sudanese military commanders in order to prevent any escalation of the situation along the border between the two countries.

It is obvious that the Sudanese Government is seeking to use this series of letters to the Security Council to persuade the Council that an unusual situation exists in the border region. To this end, it is distorting reality and fabricating events and threats with a view to covering up the internal situation in the Sudan, which is deteriorating as a result of the repression waged by the Sudanese regime against the fraternal Sudanese people and by a policy which supports terrorism and attempts to interfere in the internal affairs of States by cooperating with unsavoury elements. Egypt, which holds its ongoing efforts to ensure peace and security throughout the region as one of the pillars of its policy, finds this unacceptable.

Egypt exercises full sovereignty in all its forms as regards security and administration within its international borders north of the 22nd parallel, including the Halayib triangle area. Despite past and present Sudanese outbursts and our awareness of the profoundly political motives which have led the Sudanese Government to raise the question of Halayib at this particular moment, we wish to avoid complicating the situation further and reaffirm our sincere desire to settle any dispute with the Sudan within the framework of the Joint Commission created for this purpose, bearing in mind the historical and friendly relations which link the two fraternal peoples and the bilateral relations that exist between the two countries, while respecting the rules and principles of good-neighbourliness and non-interference in the internal affairs of States and respecting the rights deriving from agreements by honouring the commitments undertaken therein.

(Signed) Amre MOUSSA
Minister for Foreign Affairs